difficulty

1 Verb collocations

Use the correct form of these verbs:

be in	*cause*	*foresee*
get into	*overcome*	*present*

1. Credit cards make it extremely easy for young people to ..... difficulty with debt.
2. We're confident that these difficulties will be ..... before the play starts.
3. It was in the six o'clock news that a large oil tanker ..... difficulties off the coast of France. It's in danger of breaking in two.
4. My father's had a mild stroke and it has ..... difficulties with his speech.
5. The task should ..... no difficulty for someone of his ability.
6. I don't ..... any difficulties so long as we keep to our planned route.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

current	*financial*	*learning*	*main*
marital	*technical*	*unforeseen*	

1. The President's live broadcast was delayed because of ..... difficulties.
2. We offer a free counselling service to couples with ..... difficulties.
3. The ..... difficulty with this new approach is that it takes twice as long as the old one.
4. He says he's having ..... difficulties and that he can't pay the rent.
5. My sister works in a special school for children with severe ..... difficulties.
6. I think I've got a plan for getting us out of our ..... difficulties.
7. An ..... difficulty has arisen, so I'm afraid we'll have to postpone the meeting.

Now match the two halves of the following:

8. The town was very busy.
9. Arsenal won easily.
10. The burglars found the door unlocked.

a. They never seemed to be in any difficulty.
b. We had great difficulty finding somewhere to park.
c. They had no difficulty getting in.

Now underline the expressions with *difficulty*.



"It's three months now and I'm still having difficulty walking."

Notes

1. In 1-3 'run into' is also possible.
   In 1-6 'expect' is also possible.
   In 2-6 'present' is also possible.
2. Note the common structure *have difficulty (in) doing something.*
   It's three months since he broke his leg, but he still has difficulty walking.
   He's a loving person, but he has difficulty showing affection.
3. We use a number of verbs to describe having difficulties:
   Some parents experienced difficulty getting their children into the school of their choice.
   Officials have encountered difficulties in getting the aid through to the refugees.
   If you meet any difficulties, let me know and I'll help you out.
4. Note how we talk about lots of difficulties:
   Her path to becoming the first woman president was beset with difficulties.
   The situation is fraught with difficulties.
5. An insurmountable difficulty is one which cannot be overcome.
   The government faces insurmountable difficulties in getting its new tax bill passed.
6. Note the common expressions *with / without difficulty:*
   The boxer got to his feet with difficulty.
   You should be able to find the hotel without much difficulty.

LIVEWORKSHEETS